

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### J&D Tube Benders, Inc.

Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center

#### J&D Tube Benders, Inc. Bent on Lean Success

##### Client Profile:

J&D Tube Benders, Inc., is a family-owned business specializing in hydraulic tube assemblies and manifolds. Founded in 1968, the company employs 115 people at its facility in Schofield, Wisconsin.

##### Situation:

J&D Tube Benders became acquainted with the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, when company president, Tom Felch, attended ISO training offered by NWMOC. When Felch wanted to improve efficiencies, make better use of his employees and workspaces, and raise profits without adding headcount, he contacted the NWMOC.

##### Solution:

NWMOC provided Lean training for several J&D Tube employees, which attracted the attention and peaked the curiosity of their co-workers. As more employees were trained in Lean manufacturing, the skepticism dwindled away and they 'bought in to' it. After a quick changeover event, the excitement, pride, and increased ownership of work areas created change for the better at J&D Tube Benders. All employees are rethinking their work processes and suggesting new ideas for improvement. "We're pleased we made the choice to go forward with our Lean journey," said Felch. "It's going to be a foundation to grow our business."

##### Results:

- \* Increased throughput by 20 percent.
- \* Reduced changeover time by 67 percent.
- \* Increased floor space by 14,000 feet.
- \* Reduced travel time by 400 feet.

##### Testimonial:

"We were very pleased with the services of NWMOC. The project managers were professional and responsive to our needs. We saw immediate results."

Tom Felch, President